



WEEKLY ACTIVITY UPDATE

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An Afghan voter has his finger marked with ink to indicate he has voted.

Counting of election ballots continues – Final results of the mid-September parliamentary and provincial elections are due October 22nd. During the weeks since voters went to the polls, ballot counting has continued across the country.

To help secure the counting sites and sensitive materials, USAID has worked with the Afghan National Army and police to position guards at the sites and accompany ballot materials during transport. In addition, USAID has observers at the major counting centers to report any tampering with the results.

Legal awareness quiz show airs – A quiz show on legal awareness was broadcast on Afghanistan's national television channel on September 15-16. Hundreds of law students and faculty attended the taping. The show is part of a national program to educate the public on their legal rights and responsibilities. USAID assisted with the show's content and filming.

Community health workers trained – Thirty-six community health supervisors completed a supervisor training course to strengthen their management skills. In addition, doctors, nurses and midwives completed over 200 training modules in newborn care and community and mental health. To date over 5,600 community health care workers have been trained, including 337 midwives.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice makes an address in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on October 12, 2005. Emphasizing that Afghanistan is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, Condoleezza Rice thanked the U.S. government staff for their services.



Afghanistan's Women's Business Federation is launched – The Women's Business Federation was launched on October 2 to promote the full integration of women into Afghanistan's developing market economy. The Federation was designed by a consortium of women's business associations.

USAID/Afghanistan Deputy Mission Director Barry Primm joined the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Zia Massud, Minister for Youth Affairs Amana Fazili, Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs Maleeha Sahak and Deputy Minister of Commerce Shahbaz Hakim for the launch. Representatives of the Afghan government and the international community were in attendance.



USAID/Afghanistan Deputy Mission Director Barry Primm addresses Afghan government officials and women entrepreneurs at the Federation launching.



International School of Kabul opens – The school opened with 166 students, 75 percent of whom are Afghans. U.S. Ambassador Ronald Neumann and USAID/Afghanistan's Mission Director Alonzo Fulgham cut the ribbon. First Lady Laura Bush sent a congratulatory letter to be read at the opening, and two Afghan businessmen donated funds for students scholarships.

SECURITY INCIDENTS

Number of Hostile Attacks

During this reporting period, there were five hostile attacks, with one directly affecting USAID operations. There were five persons killed and seven injured. Additionally, five persons were kidnapped, with three individuals being released shortly after their capture.

Recent Incidents

On October 12 a USAID funded NGO health team was attacked in Kandahar province. Five NGO staff members were killed and two others are in critical/serious condition. The team was reported to be visiting a camp for internal displaced people near Nalgham village in the Panjwai district.

